GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:22
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
FINANCIAL POWERS TO PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS
KANTI SINGH;MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the financial powers given under the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 to the Panchayati Raj Institutions have not been given effect to by the States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the proper implementation of the financial powers by the States/Union Territories; and

(d) the other steps the Government propose to take to ensure the implementation of the Panchayati Raj system in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.22 Due for Answer on 20/11/2001

(a) to (d) According to Article 243-G of the Constitution of India, the State Legislatures have been vested with powers to enact laws to endow the Panchayats with powers and authority to enable them to function as effective institutions of self -government. The devolution of powers upon Panchayats is a continuing process and the States/UTs have devolved powers upon Panchayats in varying degrees.

2. The Central Government have been advising the States/UTs, through high - level Meetings, as also through correspondence with the Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj to devolve powers to Panchayats and have been following up this matter. A Conference of Ministers of Panchayati Raj of the States was held atNew Delhi in July, 2001 when it was, inter-alia, resolved that the States and Union Territories would devolve powers upon Panchayats in respect of the 29 subjects listed in the 11th Schedule to the Constitution and issue executive instructions devolving specific executive powers upon each tier of Panchayats, by the end of March, 2002.